hang fire when people are dying of thirst, and farm produce has suffered enormously over the years; and

(b) what steps are contemplated to ensure that all these disputes are resolved under a time bound programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Five Inlar-State river water disputes namely Godavari, Krishna, Narmada, Ravi-Beas, and Cauvery were referred to the Central Government for setting up tribunals as per Inter State Water Dispute Act, 1956 for adjudication of the disputes. Accordingly the Central Government has set up tribunals for them. In respect of the above first three water disputes the tribunals have already given their final awards. Further Ravi-Beas Water Disputes Tribunal has given a report on 30.1.1987 and the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has given an interim order on 25.6.91. It is not possible to predict the time which the tribunals may take for giving final award.

National Water Policy

1028. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government the contemplating/have formulated a national water policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The National Water Policy was adopted by the Government in 1987.

(b) The salient features of the National Water Policy (1987) are as under:—

(i) Reckoning a drainage basin or sub-basin as a unit for planning;

(ii) establishing standardised national information system;

(iii) adoption of integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to planning and formulation of projects;

(iv) integrated and coordinated development of surface and ground water;

(v) special attention in planning projects for benefiting disadvantaged groups of the society;

(vi) water transfer to needy areas based on a National Perspective;

(vii) giving primary consideration for provision of drinking water while planning multipurpose projects;

(viii) rationalising water rates for diverse purposes such as to convey the scarcity value of resources to the users;

(ix) close integration of water use and land use policies;

(x) fostering water as scarce resources to promote conservation consciousness,

(xi) emphasising non-structural measures to reduce flood loss while structural measures to protect flood to continue;

(xii) relief works to be aimed at drought-proofing works, while drought prone areas to be made less vulnerable to drought; and

(xiii) maximising technological inputs into the orderly development of water resources.

(c) Does not arise.

देश में सिंचाई सुविधाएं

1029.**श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह**:

श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:

श्री प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्त तक कुल कृषि योग्य भूमि में से केवल 30% भूमि में ही सिंचाई व्यवस्था उपलब्ध थी;

(ख) यदि नहीं,तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या हैं;